



scripts. In this embodiment, the middleware 140 is an application server that runs on a PC running Microsoft Windows 2000. The middleware communicates with the front end using Microsoft® DCOM communication protocol. In the alternative, if the front end and middleware are run in a single computer, the Microsoft® COM components are utilized. In this embodiment, the middleware uses the visual basic programming language to implement the DCOM components. In the alternative, C++ or any other programming language may be used to provide DCOM or COM components. In yet further alternative embodiments, the front end may run java server pages (JSP) and the middleware may run servlet and java bean components.

[0016] A preferred embodiment additionally includes the use of a non-responsiveness counter to prevent disabling of applications when only intermittent non-responsiveness occurs. The non-responsiveness counter is a counter that stores a cumulative value in a given period. In this preferred embodiment, the period is one minute. The non-responsiveness counter is increased when the middleware determines that the response time is greater than the predetermined threshold in act 220. By comparing the non-responsiveness counter with a non-responsiveness counter threshold, the system can restrict disabling of an application only after a certain number of instances of non-responsiveness. Thus, in this preferred embodiment, the use of the counter will temper the likelihood of an application quiesce until a more significant back end bottleneck has occurred.

## SUMMARY

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner grant early allowance of this application. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorneys for the Applicant via telephone if such communication would expedite this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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